

Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY AF:WBEDMONDSON:EW

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

AF:WESCHAUFLE

S/S-O:LRMACFARLANE

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TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 284368

NODIS

FOR REINHARDT AND WISNER

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA CONFERENCE

1. FOLLOWING ARE ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS TO USE WITH
RICHARD:

A. -- THE SECRETARY HOPES THE PATRIOTIC FRONT ACCEPTS
YOUR LATEST FORMULATION ON THE INDEPENDENCE DATE, AS THE
ONLY LOGICAL THING TO DO NOW IS TO FOLLOW THE COURSE
INDICATED IN THE LAST SENTENCE OF YOUR STATEMENT, THAT IS,
TO COME BACK TO THE QUESTION OF FIXING A FIRM DATE AFTER
AGREEING ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT.

B. -- WASHINGTON IS CONCERNED AT THE REFUSAL
OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND CERTAIN OTHER AFRICANS TO MOVE
ON TO OTHER SUBJECTS WITHOUT HAVING THE INDEPENDENCE DATE
ISSUE SETTLED ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

C. -- OUR FEAR IS THAT FURTHER BLOWUPS WILL BE MADE

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INEVITABLE IF THE DELEGATES INSIST ON TAKING ONE ISSUE AT

A TIME AND SETTLING EACH ONE BEFORE MOVING ON.

D. -- WE BELIEVE THE BEST STRATEGY IS TO KEEP ALL ISSUES OPEN UNTIL NEARER THE END OF THE CONFERENCE, WHEN THE TIME COMES TO PUT THE FINAL PACKAGE TOGETHER. THAT WAY ONE KEEPS OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF TRADE-OFFS BETWEEN DIFFERENT POSITIONS ON DIFFERENT ISSUES.

E. -- IS THERE ANY WAY WE CAN HELP CONVINCE THE AFRICANS TO KEEP THIS FLEXIBILITY IN THEIR OWN INTERESTS AND IN THE INTEREST OF HAVING THE NEGOTIATIONS SUCCEED?

2. IF PROSPECTS ARE THAT RICHARD'S MOST RECENT FORMULATION WILL BE REJECTED, CREATING PRESSURES FOR ADJOURNMENT, YOU MAY ADD FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. -- WE BELIEVE EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO AVOID FORMAL ADJOURNMENT OF THE CONFERENCE, AS WE ARE DUBIOUS THAT IT CAN BE BROUGHT BACK TOGETHER AGAIN.

B. -- WOULD IT BE FEASIBLE, IF NECESSARY, TO PROPOSE AN ADJOURNMENT OF ONLY A FEW DAYS FOR FURTHER CONSULTATIONS, GIVING US TIME TO GO BACK TO THE FRONT LINE STATES AND URGE THEM TO ADVISE THE NATIONALISTS TO TAKE UP OTHER ISSUES WITHOUT AN AGREED STATEMENT ON THE INDEPENDENCE ISSUE?

C. -- AT THIS STAGE WE BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO THE OPTION OF TRYING TO CONTINUE THE TALKS WITH THE MORE MODERATE DELEGATIONS. WHAT DO YOU THINK?

D. -- WE WOULD ALSO NEED TO CONSULT WITH THE RHODESIAN DELEGATIONS AND THE SOUTH AFRICANS TO APPRISE THEM OF OUR ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGY. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, INTERIM GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, BRIEFING MATERIALS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, NEGOTIATIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE284368
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WBEDMONDSON:EW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840105-0551
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761132/aaaabbee.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA CONFERENCE
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, RH, UK, (RICHARD, IVOR)
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006